

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (previously amended) A semi-automatic firearm, comprising:
 - a magazine;
 - a frame with a magazine well for receiving the magazine;
 - a slide removably mounted on the frame, wherein the slide may be in a chamber closed position and a chamber open position;
 - a striker firing-pin assembly mounted within the slide;
 - a firing mechanism having a trigger, a trigger bar, and a sear;
 - a sear assembly that includes a sear housing and a sear guide, wherein said sear is slidably mounted within said sear housing and guided by said sear guide;
 - an access port disposed in the slide; and
 - wherein when the slide is in said chamber closed position, said access port is aligned with the sear and said sear is accessible through said access port.
2. (canceled).
3. (canceled).
4. (previously amended) The firearm of claim 1, wherein said the assembly further comprises a sear spring that biases the sear substantially toward the slide.
5. (previously amended) The firearm of claim 1, wherein the sear assembly further comprises a pivot arm, wherein the sear is slidably attached to the pivot arm and the pivot arm is pivotally attached to the sear housing.
6. (original) The firearm of claim 5, wherein the sear guide extends through a slot in the sear and a sear spring biases the sear into contact with the sear guide.
7. (original) The firearm of claim 5 further comprising a magazine safety that impairs the movement of the firing mechanism so that the firing mechanism cannot be actuated.

8. (original) The firearm of claim 7 wherein the magazine safety comprises a lever that engages a pin attached to the sear when the magazine safety is on, and thereby impairs lateral movement of the sear.

9. (previously amended) The firearm of claim 1, wherein inserting a probe into the access port and moving the sear with the probe permits the slide to be removed from the frame.

10. (previously amended) A semi-automatic firearm, comprising:

- a frame;

- a slide removably mounted on the frame;

- a firing mechanism; and

- an access port disposed in the slide;

- a magazine safety that impairs the movement of the firing mechanism so that the firing mechanism cannot be actuated;

- wherein the magazine safety comprises a lever that engages a pin attached to the sear when the magazine safety is on, and thereby impairs lateral movement of the sear; and

- wherein the firing mechanism is accessible through the access port and can be manipulated to allow removal of the slide from the frame.

11. (original) The firearm of claim 10 wherein the access port is aligned with the firing mechanism when the slide is in a chamber-closed position.

12. (canceled).

13. (canceled).

14. (canceled).

15. (canceled).

16. (cancel).

17. (previously added) A semi-automatic firearm, comprising:

- a frame;

- a slide mounted on said frame and having a front portion adjacent a discharge end of said firearm and a rear portion oriented on an opposing, distal end of said slide, wherein said slide may be in one of a closed position and an open position;

- an ejection port formed in said slide;

- a rear sight oriented on said rear portion of said slide;

- a firing mechanism including a sear; and

- an access port formed in said slide, between said ejection port and said rear sight;

and

wherein when said slide is in said chamber closed position, said sear is accessible through said access port.

18. (new) A semi-automatic firearm, comprising:

- a frame;

- a slide having an ejection port, said slide being slidably disposed for movement on said frame between one of a closed position and an open position and having a housing that extends longitudinally and substantially parallel to a direction of movement of said slide;

- a firing mechanism including a sear assembly;

- an access port formed in said housing; and

wherein said sear assembly is accessible through said access port to permit manipulation of said sear assembly therethrough.